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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Saturday 27 May 1978

CG NIDC 78/124C



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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Saturday, 27 May 1978.

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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ZAIRE: Situation Report

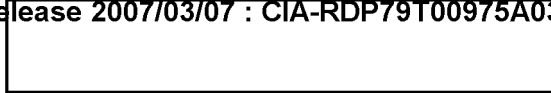
25X1 [] French troops in Zaire did not leave Kolwezi yesterday, despite a Defense Ministry announcement that they were to begin a move to Lubumbashi for a period of rest before returning to France. According to French press sources, the commander of the Foreign Legion unit in Kolwezi said he had received no new orders and did not envisage an early move. Talks on Wednesday between Belgian Prime Minister Tindemans and Zairian President Mobutu focused on security and economic matters.

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25X1 [] The French face a dilemma in Shaba. By keeping their soldiers there, they risk becoming involved in guerrilla operations that could result in more French casualties. Their close association with the Zairian military also appears to be causing resentment among local Zairians who have often been mistreated by government soldiers.

25X1 [] On the other hand, the French believe they have a responsibility for protecting the remaining European community from future rebel attacks and antigovernment dissidents. The French apparently have not yet made a final decision on when to pull out the task force.

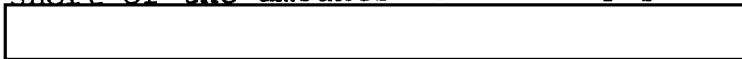
25X1 [] In Kolwezi, in the meantime, a preliminary evaluation indicates that it will be at least two months before the mining, processing, and refining facilities can be restored to normal operation. Damage to the facilities must be repaired and parts and equipment obtained. Basic services, including water and electricity, will also have to be restored in the mining town. In addition, recruitment of trained foreign personnel could take considerable time and may prove impossible if the security of the area is not guaranteed. An estimated 800 to 1,000 foreign technicians were employed at Kolwezi when the Katangans attacked.



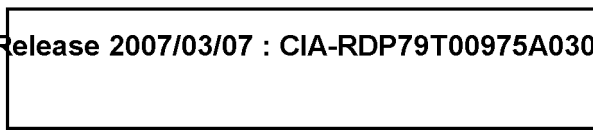
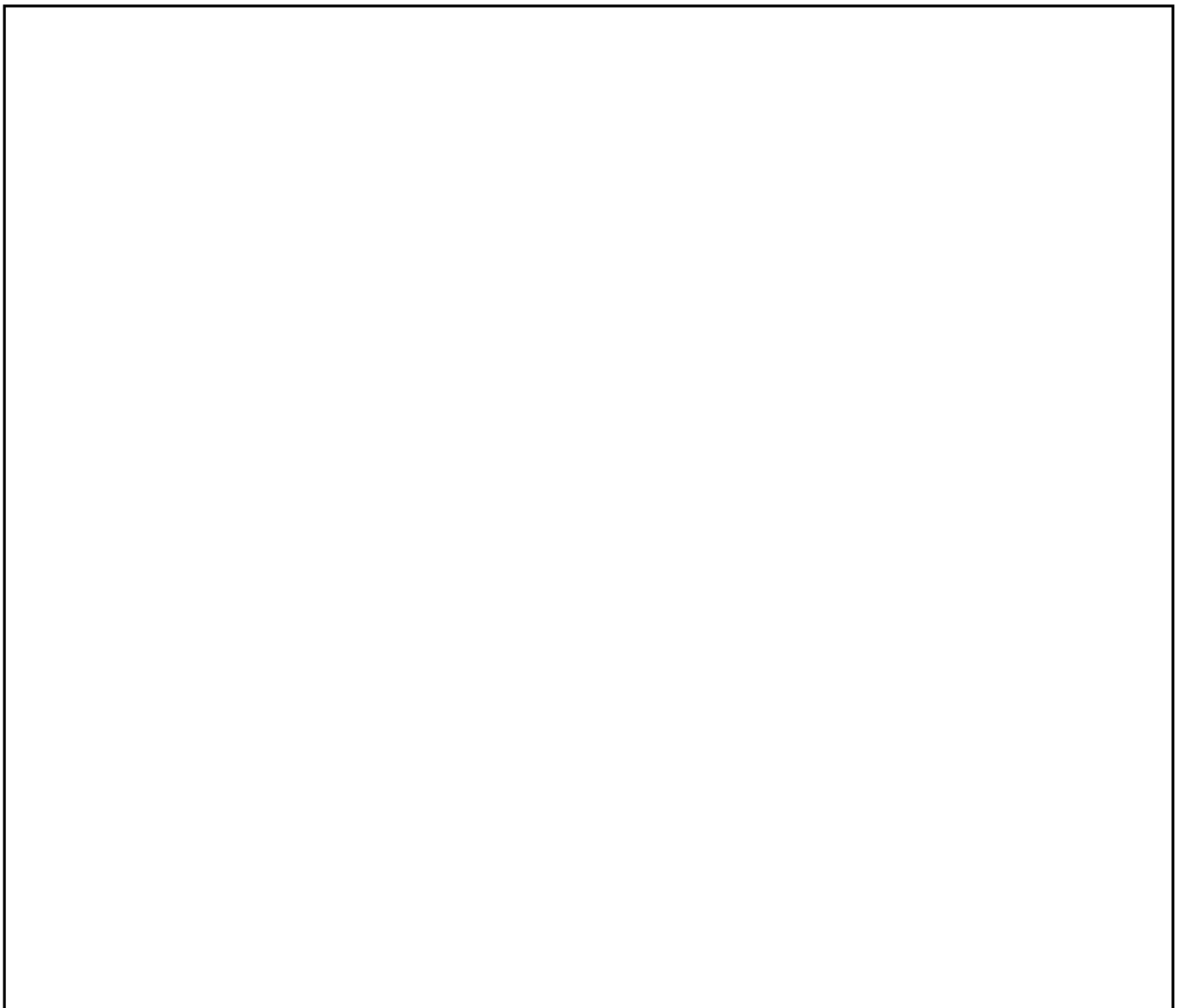
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 Zaire and Belgium will be hard-pressed to obtain funds for the restoration of Kolwezi. Without these facilities, the GECAMINES mining company will be able to produce only about 100,000 tons of copper and 1,000 tons of cobalt annually--far short of the amounts needed to pay for Kolwezi's rehabilitation.

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CHINA-INDOCHINA: Situation Report

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[redacted] //China announced yesterday that it will send ships to evacuate ethnic Chinese from Vietnam. [redacted]

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[redacted] Peking and Hanoi are now engaged in a full blown war of words. Continued border fighting between Vietnam and Cambodia--China's closest ally in the region--along with what Peking doubtless suspects are Vietnamese-inspired pressures for the withdrawal of Chinese forces from Laos, are fueling current tensions.//

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[redacted] The official Chinese news agency reported yesterday that, because Vietnam was "continuing to persecute Chinese residents of Vietnam," the Chinese Government "had decided to send ships" to evacuate the Chinese. Although the Chinese already may have at least tacit approval from Vietnam, Hanoi has not yet responded publicly to the announcement.

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[redacted] In response to Peking's public protest on Wednesday, Hanoi radio yesterday denied the charge that Vietnam was persecuting and deporting Chinese residents of Vietnam. The broadcast blamed the exodus of Chinese on "rumors" spread by "bad

elements" in Vietnam's Chinese community. A Vietnamese press official in Tokyo took the same line while criticizing Peking for interfering in Vietnam's internal affairs.

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[REDACTED] The official Chinese news agency meanwhile has begun broadcasting on-the-spot accounts of the exodus of Chinese from Vietnam into China, citing evidence of Vietnamese brutality. Chinese provincial radiobroadcasts have reported anti-Vietnamese sentiments expressed at welcoming "rallies" for arriving refugees.

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[REDACTED] //The Chinese Ambassador to Laos recently acknowledged to his US counterpart that the Chinese road-building project--which began in the early 1960s--had ended, but he said that over 500 Chinese will continue to participate in other aid projects in northern Laos. In addition to its Embassy in Vientiane, China still maintains two consulates in northern Laos.//

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Guzman's Victory

Confirmation of Antonio Guzman's victory in the presidential election of 16 May could open a period of instability in the Dominican Republic. There is a good chance, however, that President Balaguer will cooperate in a difficult transition and ease tensions between Guzman's center-left Dominican Revolutionary Party and the conservative armed forces.

Near final tallies released yesterday show that Guzman's clear majority was not significantly altered by last week's interruption of the vote count by the military. Die-hard Balaguer supporters apparently still intend to press charges of large-scale fraud by Guzman's party, but there is little chance that the allegations will have much impact.

The military is now Guzman's major worry both in the near and in the long term. Top officers, stung by the adverse popular reaction to their intervention, have agreed not to intervene again if Guzman continues his moderate posture and controls leftists in his party. The military's deep-seated hostility, however, will leave it primed for intervention if provoked.

Balaguer's support is essential to a peaceful transition. He opposes a coup and appears ready to cooperate with a confident but conciliatory Guzman, who seems likely to form a moderate government.

CANADA: Trudeau's Speech

25X1 [] //Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau's unexpected statement at the UN Special Session on Disarmament yesterday renouncing a nuclear role for Canada constitutes a symbolic protest against nuclear proliferation with little real military significance.//

25X1 [] //Trudeau said that Canada has withdrawn its armed forces in Europe from any nuclear role and is now "in the process of replacing with conventionally armed aircraft the nuclear-capable planes still assigned to our forces in North America." The Prime Minister noted that, by this move, Canada becomes the first nuclear power that has "chosen to divest itself of nuclear weapons."//

25X1 [] //Trudeau's statements have no practical significance. Canada has no nuclear role in Europe, either past or present. Moreover, Trudeau's remarks about planes in North America apparently refer to the CF-101 all-weather interceptor--an aircraft whose Genie air-to-air missile, which can be fitted with a nuclear warhead, is controlled by the US. The US retains the missiles themselves and has ultimate release authority for their use. Ottawa has been searching for a new interceptor to replace the aging CF-101s, but has not yet made a decision on which aircraft to buy.//

25X1 [] //The Canadian Government has been interested for several years in the question of nuclear disarmament and is a strong proponent of nonproliferation--as witnessed by its complete cutoff last year of nuclear fuel to the European Community and Japan until further safeguards were agreed to. Thus, Trudeau's announcement may well be received favorably at home as a gesture emphasizing that the government stands firm on its nonproliferation policy.//

25X1 [] //The statement also no doubt stems from Trudeau's election year strategy of appearing at international forums to enhance his reputation as a world statesman. This is the first time since Trudeau took power 10 years ago that he has visited the UN. []

BRIEF

Peru

25X1 [] Thirteen opponents of the Morales Bermudez government--mostly leftwing politicians--have been exiled to Argentina. The expulsions follow 10 days of rioting and a 48-hour general strike that left 26 dead, scores injured, and more than a thousand in jail. Peruvian leaders have attempted to blame leftist agitation for the violent unrest, which was precipitated when the government imposed steep price increases on food staples and gasoline.

25X1 [] Among those expelled were nine leftist candidates for the constituent assembly election scheduled for 18 June. Their exile has prompted speculation that the election may be canceled. On Thursday, however, the electoral court said that preparations have not been affected by the civil strife and that the election will be held as scheduled. []

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